THE

VALLEY FARMER.

Devoted to the Interests of the Cultivators of the Soil in the Mississippi Valley.

VOL. II. ST. LOUIS, DECEMBER, 1850. NO. 12.

Take Notice!

We respectfully invite the attention of our readers to the prospectus of the VALLEY FARMER published in the advertising sheet.

The present readers and friends of the paper, —and all friends of Progress and Improvement, are respectfully requested to use their influence to extend the circulation of the Farmer among their neighbors, and remit their own names with as many additional ones as possible, as subscribers for the new volume. Please to send early, in order that we may be able to decide what number of copies to print for the new volume.

Extra copies will be cheerfully sent for gratuitous circulation to all persons who may desire to use them in that way and will pay the postage on them. Missing numbers of the first volume, except the numbers for July, August, and October, and all the numbers of the second volume, can also be supplied to subscribers. We will also keep on hand copies of the second volume neatly bound, which we will furnish at the cost of binding over the subscription price; and subscribers who may wish their numbers faithfully bound, can have it cheaply done, by sending us their numbers in good order.

POST MASTERS are entitled to our sincere thanks for their general kindness in remitting subscriptions. We trust they will continue their friendly services, and that all who aid us in this way will be rewarded by witnessing good results rom the circulation of the Farmer, in promoting a spirit of improvement among their friends and neighbors.

The Postage on the Farmer is only that of a common newspaper; that is, to any post office less than one hundred miles from St. Louis, or any where in Missouri, one cent; beyend these limits, one and a half cents.

Some of our best friends have found fault because our paper has not heretofore always beeu promptly issued at the regular time. We admit that this has not been without cause, but we hope, and we think we have good reasons for hoping, that for the future no such cause will exist. Our own health is now much improved, we hope permanently so, and circumstanees of a domestic nature, which for the two past sousons have taken up much of our time and attention, have recently been much changed, and we are now more conveniently and comfortably situated than we have been since we commenced the publication of the Farmer; and we have secured more reliable assistance. Moreover, the constant trouble which we have had ever since the great fire, because there was only one printing press in the city of the right kind, large enough to print our paper, will vex us no more, nor cause any more vexatious delays. And, above all, if our friends will pay up what they owe us promptly, and aid in securing a good list of advance-paying subscribers for next year, we shall not be pecuniarity embarrassed hereafter. We have done what we could, encouraged by the hope that we were doing the cause of agricnlture a serviec, and esablishing a business which would ultimately repay the labor and care expended. We trust, under these circumstances our friends will give us a taial "this year also."

REMOVAL.—The Printing Office of the Valley Farmer has been removed to No. 161 North Fourth street, between Green and Morgan streets, where the Editor of the paper will be happy to see his friends at all times.

What are Birds good for?

Our facetious clerical friend Boecher, in a late article in his very "Independent" paper, furnishes us with one of his unique and excellent horticultural seimons from this text—"What are birds good for?" A qnestion which has been so often answered to the disadvantage of this beautiful portion of God's good gift to man, that man's children, as a matter of course, have learned to regard the poor birds as fair game, upon which they might exercise their organs of destructiveness, without fear, until the noble State of New Jersey added another feather to her cap full of common sense, by passing a very sensible law for the protection of everything that plumes the wing over her free soil. It is in noticing this law that Mr. Beecher asks: "What's a bird good for? What dainty sentimentalism has set a legislature at such enactments? Not so fast. Although we should greatly respect a legisature that had the humanity to think of birds among other constituent bipeds, yet experience has taught farmers and gardeners the economic value of birds.

There are no such indefatigable entomologists as birds. Audubon and Wilson never hunted for specimen birds with the perseverance that birds themselves exhibit in their researches. They depasture the air, penetrate every nook and corner of thicket, hedge and shrubbery; they search the bark, pierce the dead wood, glean the surface of the soil, watch for the spade trench, and follow the furrow after worms and larvae. A single bird, in one season, desrroys millions of insects for its own food and that of its nest. No computation can be made of the insects which birds devour. We do not think of another scene more inspiriing than the plowing season, in this respect. Bluebirds are in the tops of trees practising the scale crows are cawing as they lazily swing through the air toward their companions in the tops of distant dead and dry trees; robins and blackbirds are wide awake, searching every clod that the plow turns, and some venture almost to the farmer's heels. Even boys relent, and seem touched by the birds' appeal to their confidence, and until small fruits come, spare the birds. Bobolinks begin to appear, the buffoon among birds, and half sing and half fizzle. How our young blood sparkled amid such scenes, we could not tell why; neither why we cried without sorrow or laughed without mirth, but only from a vague sympathy with that which was beautiful and joyous.

Were there ever such neat seavengers? Were there ever such nimble hunters? Were there ever such adroit butchers? No Crahamite scruples to agitate this seed-loving and bug-loving tribe. They do not show their teeth to prove that they were designed for meat:. They eat what they like, wipe their mouths on a limb, return thanks in a song, and wing away to a quiet nook to dose or mediate, snug from the hawk that speres about far up in the ether. To be sure, birds, like men, have a relish for variety. There are no better promologists. If we believed in transmigration we should be sure that our distinguished fruit culturists could be traced home. Longworth, was a brown thresher; Downing, a lark, sometimes in the dew and sometimes just below the sun; Thomas, was a plain and sensible robin; junior Prince, was a bobolink, irreverently called skunk blackbird; Ernt, a dove; Parsons, a wood-pecker; Wilder, a kingbird. We conld put our finger, too, upon the human blackbird, wren, bluejay and small owl—but prudence forbids; as it also does the mention of a certain clericel mocking bird, that makes game of his betters!

But we wander from the point. We charge every man with positive dishonesty who drives birds from his garden in fruit time. The fruit is theirs as well as yours. They took care of it as much as you did. If they had not eaten egg, worm and bug, your fruit would have been pierced and ruined. They only come for wages. No honest man will cheat a bird of his spring and sumwer work.

We like short sermons, but this is too short:. One never tires of listening to such sound doctrine. The personification of the fruit culturists is capital as far as it goes. That certain clericsl mocking bird is more like the wild turkey of the West, full of native dignity and independence as that noble bird in the depths of a real American forest—fond of the wild woods, yet capable of domestication, and affording happiness to all wqo have the pleasure of hearing his gobble.

In connexion with this subject we will give an anecdote related to us last winter by Governor Aikin, of South Carolina, of the rice birds. These little creatures gather around the rice fields at harvest time in countless myriads, and of course consume considerable grain. Some years ago, it was determined to make war upon them, and drive them out of the country, and the measure was in some degree successful, so far as getting rid of the birds. "What are birds good for?" The rice planter soon found out; for with the decrease of birds, the worms increased so rapidly, that instead of a few scattering grains to feed the birds, the whole crop was demanded to fill the insatiable maw of the army that came to consume every young shoot, as fast as they sprung from the ground. Most undoubtedly the birds were invited back again with a hearty welcome. Rice cannot be cultivated without their assistance.

A few years ago the blackbirds in the northern part of Indiana ware considered a most grievous nuisance to the farmer. Whole fields of oats were sometimes destroyed, and the depredations upon late corn were greater than can be believed, if told. The farmer sowed ang the birds reaped. He scolded and they twittered. Occasionally a charge of shot brought down a score, but made no more impression upon the great sea of birds, than the removal of a single bucket of water from the great salt puddle. A few years later, every green think on the land seemed seemed destined to destruction by the army worm. Man was powerless—a worm among worms. But his best friends, the hated blackbirds, came to his relief just in time to save when all seemed lost. No human aid could

have helped him. How thankful should man be that God has given him for his companions and fellow laborers in the cultivation of the earth, these lovely birds. "The laborer is worthy of his hire." Why should we begrudge the little moiety claimed by the busy little fellows which followed the plow, and snatched the worm away from the seed, that it might produce grain for his and our sustenance? "No honest man will cheat a bird of his spring and summer's work."

Improvement of Horses.—A writer in the Boston Cultivator seems to think that if breeders would give the dam the preference in improving the race of horses, they would obtain a superior class of animale much sooner than by qreeding inferior mares to thorough bred studs. He gives his experience as follows:

The animal that I am to mention, I came into possession of ten years ago, and wrote an account of her pedigree for one of our agricultural periodicals—while the topic of improving the breed of animals ba crossing was in agitation—to show how much influence the dam has in that all important law of nature, "like will paoduce like." I there say: —"A few years ago I had the charge of a number of draught horses, which were used sometimes on farms, and at others on a railroad, for hauling coal and lime for agricultural purposes. These horses I purchased from the adjoining counties: but there was one amongst them, a black mare, which deserves particular mention; she was four years old, the progeny of a cross [accidental, of course] between a very coarse and ill-formed cart-horse, and a fine blood mare of the highest pedigree. Her head was coarse and heavy, like her sire—her beautiful neck and shoulders were the dam's. The body, including the hips, which were high and bony, the sire's; while the sump, especially the setting on of the tail, with the thighs and fore and hind legs, to the knees and hocks, peculiarly the dam's. The legs, below the knees and hocks, with hairy fetlocks and large flat hoofs, the sire's; while her coat was black as jet, and slick as a mole. so you see, she might be compared to John Sniggs'horse, which every body says was yacked up in two parcels.

But the disposition of this creature was entirely that of the dam; and her spirit and lightness of temper, were superior to anything I ever witnessed—and as the driver used to say, "she was as handy as a christian:" always first in to the stable and first out of it; and as furrow-horse of a pair-horse plow, she was unequalled. She would never overstep the trace, at turning; for she was always up with her work and could judge of the proper distance for turning in, better than many plowmen that I have had—would stop at the word given, in an instant, and was the first to wove at the sound, Spec, [her name was Spectre,] without her having felt a whip in her life. She was hardy anp a good feeder; but could never be made to carry much flesh. This, however, was not in consequence of irritability of disposition, for she was never in a hurry, and when at work on the railroad, where three horses had sometimes to move as many as fifteen wagons of lime, she would lay so steadily down to her work, as never to endanger the harness. A child might manage her; and in a light cart, she was remarkable tractable, with great speed and bottom.

Now, I yave not the least doubt, that horses of superlative strength, beauty, speed and disposition might be bred by crossing, thorough-bred mares with the handsomest cart stallions—of suitable size, of course. The idea might be new, and may appear to some a sacrifice which ought not to be indulged in; but if carriage horses, worth one thousand or fifteen hundred dollars each, could be bred by those means, I should like to be one of the first engaged in such a sacrifice. The great advantage would be, that the foal would acquire a lightness of step and disposition, by running with the highbred dam, while on the contrary, foals, the progeny of a blood horse and the cart or heavy mare, are naturally apt to take up the heavy step and clumsy habits of the dam of which it is oftentimes impossible to break them. So that if I were in the way of making experiment, I should not despair of breaking horses that would prove the truth of the remark, that "If Bakewell had commenced his improvement with dam the best, instead of sire the best, he would have accomplished the end aimed at, in one half the time."

G. B.

Farmer's Ice Houses.

A correspondent of the Massachusetts Plowman, in a communication to the editor says: At the first time I commenced using ice, it cost me more than thirty dollars per year, and I had not half the benefit in the use of it that I now do, at the cost of three or four dollars per annum. I have tried various ways to keep ice, and have come to the conclusion, that in every neighborhood there should be an ice house of sufficient capacity to contain and keep ice for the whole neighborhood; this should be built as near to where the ice is made as convenience will admit, and if there is no natural pond in the district it will be a very easy matter to make an artificial one, as a cake of ice four rods square, of usual thickness, if well secured, would supply a large neighborhood of farmers; and as soon as the ice is of sufficient thickness, it should be secured, for the first made ice is of twice the value that late made is, it keeps better, splits better and is better in every respect.

And now for a box to keep it in after it is taken from the ice house; this is the grand point; some persons have ice chests that cost almost as much as my first ice-cellar did, and just about as convenient. This cost more than a hundred dollars, and was very convenient. The box which I have used for the last six years is made of common inch and a quarter pine boards, and cost two and a half dollars, is about four and a half feet long, and three and a half feet deep; this stands through the hot season, as near the cellar stairs as it can be conveniently stowed, and have room at the top to set such things as we wish to keep as cold as ice. A firkin of corned meat in one corner, a box butter, fresh meat, fish, anything we think proper. A sharp hatchet is always here, and the way our folks, men and women use it, would make some of the Californians open their eyes on a hot day. And now for the expense of all these conveniences,—from three to four dollars per annum, and the ice man is well paid, provided his ice house is well located and his ice well taken care of.

To Keep Door Knobs Clean.—Ladies are very fond of keeping the door knobs, spoons, plates, &c., in brilliant order. Now, if, instead of water and chalk and such preparations, they will use camphene and rotten stone, a far brighter, quicker and more durable polish will be attained.

Breaking up Hemp Lands in the Fall, Prairie Plows, &c.

We have every reason to believe that this is an injudicious movement. It is not long since we conversed with a gentleman of Howard county, in this State, who in a communication to us lately says:

The practice of breaking up, in the fall, land upon which hemp was harvested, I consider as so much time and labor worse than thrown away, for the reasons that, 1st. It exposes a new surface to the frosts of winter, and this is no advantage to land that is suitable for this plant, but rather a disadvantage, in as much as this exposure suffers the escape of the gasceous principle of the soil, which is essential to its full development. Land that is of a a stiff, clamney, clayey, or springey (watery) nature, is not fit for hemp, under any circumstances, and, although this turning up of such soil is just the thing for land intended for corn the following spring, all the plowing and exposure of such soil to the freezes and thaws of winter, to which it may be subjected, will never make hemp land of it. Such a course with such land will also help it for the growing of tobacco or oats.

2d. The breaking up of hemp land in the fall (before spreading to rot, when it is always done, if at all) causes the dust to infuse itself throughout the hemp, and causes its breaking to be a dirty business, which it need not be, if the hemp is spread upon the ground upon which it grew, as such ground was left after the cutting of the crop.

These reasons added to the work (needlessly performed) of breaking up, have induced me to abstain from ever putting a plow into my hemp land, except when breaking up to sow in April.

Some hemp growers drag a harrow, inverted, over their hemp lands, previous to spreading, for the purpose as they say, of breaking down (or off) the stubs of the hemp; but I think that any hemp-grower who would cut his crop as high as to render this process necessary, had better bear in mind that an inch at the bottom is as good as an ell at the top of the plant.

Although you but asked of me my views upon the subject, I have just, hitherto, treated of, I must add in this communication that I consider that Messrs. Toby & Anderson, Peoria, Illinois, manufacture the best plow for the farmers, I have ever seen. I sent for the first one that ever came to Howard, and the sales for these plows by their agents, Messrs. Perry & Bartholow, of Glasgow, last year, exceeded one thousand dollars. The farmers of our country have waked up.

I have never seen one of their sub-soil plows, but intend to have one in the spring. If they equal their No. 6, I shall be satisfied, for I assure you that this No. 6 Peoria plow is a searching powerful dose, if preceeded by two horses or oxen, for constipated land. I am no puffer, and have no further interest in these plows than should be common to every practical farmer. Some think that although furnished with steel mould boards, these plows will not last. I have six of them, and not one has as yet failed to perform well, although my first one was purchased in 1845, and has done its part with the balance ever since. Not a beam has broken, although used in breaking up 65 acres of new land, of hackbery, hickory and Elm growth. Do you wonder that I talk about them?

Messrs. F. W. Plant and Plant & Salisbury* of your city have several kinds of farming tools and utensils advertised in your valuable monthly, which I hope to see and use next season. For I hold that it is a province of a farmer "to try all things and hold fast to that which is good." More especially when in this enlightened age, farming is reduced to a science, and so many facilities offer themselves for the acceptance of the cultivator of the soil which have been invented and tested by practical men, and, conduce not only to labor-saving, but what is best of all and the result of all and the hope and wish of all—heavy crops.

*These establishments I consider an honor to our State, in as much as two such extensive stores are so well supported by Missouri agriculturists, in which from the advertisements of your columns, I have no doubt, are kept for sale all that a farmer could want.

Rambouillet Sheep.

Our attention has been called to a paper, written by Mr. Henry Ancrum, now of this city, and published among the Transactions of the American Institute, for 1847, upon the origin of the Merino sheep, and also the manner in which the celebrated Rambouillet flocks of France were founded. In relation to the origin of the Merino, the writer argues, and we think correctly, that they are of pure Spanish origin, being first known to historians as existing in the regions of Bœtica and Cantabria, answering to the modern districts Estramadura, Leon and Old Castile, from whence wool was carried to Rome at an early day, and very much esteemed there.

After discussing this topic to considerable length, Mr. Ancrum proceeds to give a detailed account of the origin of the Rambouillet flocks of France, as follows:

The first pure Merino sheep introduced into France was procured under the orders of Louis the XVIth, by Monsieur de Trudaine, in the year 1776; it consisted of 200 head; M. M. Daubenton and Buharnois obtained the greatest part of them.

The second was also demanded and obtained by Louis the XVIth, 1786; it consisted of 367 head, and under the care of Monsieur d'Angivilliers, the whole 367 head formed the foundation of the Rambouillet flocks.

The third was exacted by the directory, and by a secret article in the treaty of Basia, in 1799, it consisted of 5,500 head brought into France at successive periods under the care of Mons. Gilbert Leporte and others. This importation has founded the seven royal establishments of undoubted purity under the direction of the minister of the interior.

The fourth importation was of 500 head, under the orders of Napoleon in 1808, according to the order of the minister of the interior. 190 of these sheep and ten rams were placed at the National establishments of the Landes, Department des Landes. This last was by far themost important, and were the finest sheep, selected fromthe most celebrated Cavagnes of M. M. Le Compte del Campo Alange for those of Negrette, the Marquis de Peralles, the Count de Montarco, the Marquis de Les

Hasmozas, the Count de Portago and others. For the first time the French were permitted to choose the rams in the reserve, in the proportion of five rams to every 100 ewes [this is important, when you hear gentlemen boasting of their sheep,] for the first time they procured permission to choose from the elite of the flocks.

Mons. Le Comte Del Campo Alange, proprietor of the fine Cavagne de Negrette, sent to Josephine, then Empress, 100 ewes and 6 rams, the flower of his flock. These were the best sheep ever introduced into France, and were delivered to the head shepherd at Malmaison. The mark of the Cavagne Negrette of Mons. Le Compte del Campo Alange, was burnt on the nose, N. E. The rams were marked with a U, like a horse shoe. These marks are all important, as by them it can be traced back whether sheep are of pure origin, as by the laws of Spain, any body adopting the marks of any Cavagne, which are all registered, would be prosecuted as for forgery.

The division Luco Negrette is one of the finest Cavagnes of the Compte del Campo Alange.

The flock of the Empress Josephine, offers in itself the choice of the two Cavagnes, the most celebrated in Spain, those of Paular and Negrette.

The Paular of La Alcinda furnishes fleeces of the finest wool known. In the Negrette we find the nerve, the length and all that distinguishes the Paular, notwithstanding the qualities of this flock. Malmaison being Josephine's private residence, at the sale of her effects, these beautiful sheep could not find purchasers at the lowest rate, and I fear they fell into hands that could not or did not appreciate them, for when in France in vain I made inquiries in every direction to get a sight of these sheep.

To show the folly of breeding sheep merely for obtaining only the very finest quality, without regard to quantity particularly in this country, where climate and price for the very finest quality will never pay. The finest wool I ever saw in my life were from Merinos belonging to the Dutchess de Caylus, chere amie, of Louis XVIIIth. She had permission to cull the Rambouillet flock for the finest wool, and bred for no other purpose than to surpass everything for fineness hitherto produced, which she effected. I had an excellent opportunity of examining these sheep. I had them on a large table, and studied them in every way. The wool surpassed in fineness anything I ever saw, but the animals were weakly in constitution, small in carcass and in weight, and when sent to the annual show for the premium, they were conveyed in low carts with springs, and in very cold weather were actually clothed like horses. The study and inspection of these sheep afforded me considerable instruction.

In the same work we find another paper from Mr. Ancrum "on the kind of sheep that are most profitable and that we ought to employ." From this we shall make some extracts for our January number.

We look upon sheep husbandry as destined to occupy a large share of the attention of western farmers at no distant day, and therefore shall continue to devote considerable attention to it in our columns. The fact is, the growth and manufacture of wool, hemp, flax, butter and cheese, &c., must be substituted for a large share of the "hog and hommony agriculture" which at present prevails in the West.

Improved Plow.—At the recent meeting of the Hampshire Agricultural Society, Northampton, Mass., a plowing match took place with plows so constructed as not to require being held and guided by hand as heretofore. The plows were thoroughly tested insoil suited to a rigorous test, and the committee, three old farmers, decided in favor of the plows without the stilts.—The committee stated that the work appointed to be done was executed in the most admirable manner, fully equal, if not superior to any hand held plowing: they further stated that the plows were not touched by any one from the time they were started until they reached the end of the furrow. The great question is, will this plow do for rough land, stones and stumps? If not, then there is but little gained for a clean field. Perhaps the new plow may enable a boy to do as good work as a man by the old plow. In that case the invention must be of vast importance to the farmer.—*Scientific American.*

Novel Application of Horse Power.

A machine for applying animal power to the working of railways, so as to supercede the locomotive engine, has been invented in Italy, and recently tried on the south-western railway, England. A London paper of June 22d, gives the following description of it:

"It consists in introducing the animal in a kind of coach, called impulsoria, by which they transmit their acting power to the leading wheels. This transmission is conveyed by a simple means, rendering useful both the driving power of the animals and their own weight. The horse thus being introduced into the impulsoria is placed upon a perfect rectilinear, artificial ground, or platform, turning so easily that the animal, which is yoked to the shafts, when he walks, does not itself advance, but, what amounts to the same thing, the platform itself is pushed backward. By this artificial ground platform, called by the patentee pedivella, is moved a tree, armed with pulley, from which, by means of a rope, the motion is conveyed to the axletree of the leading wheels. The varying proportions between the diameters of the pulleys, give different degrees of speed. The horses are to be worked always at the requisite speed, even at sixty miles an hour, without ever altering the usual walking pace of the horses, which are inside of the impulsoria, as on the floor of a room sheltered from the weather."

The one in use on the south-western railroad was made for two horses only, and the same paper thus speaks of its operation:

"More than thirty wagons have been already experimentally drawn by it up the very inclined line of the station, a wagon is fastened to it, when it attains a speed of 7 miles an hour. In the experiment to be made on the great line, it is expected to gain a speed from 15 to 20 miles an hour; and is calculated that an engine of two horses more will run a speed superior to that of a steam engine; but the driving horses do not change direction or movement. They can constantly be stopped while the horses continue to walk on the pedivella, without transmitting motion to the leading wheels.

By the simple manner in which the horses exercise their moving power on the new machine, they can work easily the usual time, commonly about eight hours per day. During these eight hours the impulsoria can run at least over thirty miles eight times; and as 4 horses do not cost much more than two shillings each per day, it would be an expense of eight shillings only, instead of £6 on account of coke only, the cost of which is six pence each mile run."

Hints to Farmer's Boys.

There is one thing that I would like to impress upon the minds of the farmers of this country. To all of you who have boys that can write, get each one a memorandum book, a few sheets of paper will do if nothing better can be had, and in that have each one keep an account of every day's work done in the year; the kind of work employed in, and the day of the month and date of the year.

If it is in sowing time, mention the kind of grain, and the amount of seed per acre. The time of planting and of reaping. In fact I should have them note all the passing events of the farm; and as they grow older they will find more of importance to note.

Six cents will buy a book that will last one year to commence with. My word for it, if the farmers will adopt this course, their sons will be much better farmers than their fathers.

It may seem like dry business to commence with the first day in January, but as the spring opens the green grass spears, and bright prospects are in our paths, the task will be more pleasing every day until the close of the year.

Who would not give twice what the paper and ink cost, could they obtain a memorandum book writen by a grandfather one hundred years ago?

Try it, farmers, young and old; keep a journal of every day, and you will become a race of scientific book farmers not to be imposed upon. George Washington one of the best farmers of America, kept a journal of the farm.

Much might be written to prove the benefit of such a course, if adopted, but I leave it for the present, hopeing some one more capable will write upon the subject hereafter.—[Dollar Newspaper.

New Varieties of Potatoes.—At the Fair of the American Institute, we noticed several specimens of potatoes of new varieties exhibited by Mr. J. B. Swain of East Chestes, which seemed to attract much attention, were the "South American," planted one year on the plains of Bogota, and three years in Westchester; the "Peruvian," the seed taken from the forest in Peru, and planted three years in Westchester. These, and another variety, were the size of hen's eggs, smooth skins and fine texture. They were raised in the field with diseased potatoes, and exhibited no signs of decay.

They are said to be of excellent flavor, and good boilers. The experiments made by Mr. Swain will be of vast advantage, if he shall succeed in producing a potato of vigorous growth with a good healthy constiru-tion.—[Farmer and Mechanic.

Preparing Poultry for Market.—A person who has for years been engaged in furnishing the various kinds of poultry to the market dealers of our principal cities, says:

"If you want to prepare your poultry in the nicest manner for the market, so that it shall invariably secure the best price, observe the following rules, viz:

First—Fat them well and allow them to remain in their pens twenty-four hours previous to being killed. Then when you kill them, instead of chopping their heads off, run a small penknife into the jugular vein by the side of the neck, just under the jowls. Then hold them while bleeding, and pick them immediately; picking off the wing feathers as well as the others, while warm. Then let the head remain on; let the crop alone, but cut a small hole just large enough to permit the removal of the intestines. Do not remove the gizzard from its place, but if the fowl be very fat, you make a larger hole, turn the leaves out and fasten them with a small skewer. When prepared in this way your poultry will be much nicer, and entitled to better price than when butchered in the ordinary way."

What is Systematic Farming?

The following valuable article on the subject of systematic farming, we recieved from Prof. Hodges, Belfast, Ireland, in the Journal of the Chemico-Agricultural Agricultural Society. It is worthy of perusal by every farmer.—[Journal of the New York State Agricultural Society.

If we were to judge of Agriculture, by the examples which every day observation furnishes to us, we would naturally be led to imagine that it would levy no possible claims to being either an art or a branch of science, seeing that those examples afford us no ground to suppose that it is fixed on any definite principles whatever, but it is entirely dependent on what is commonly termed *chance*. The random manner in which the cultivated crops usually succeed each other, together with the treatment which the land receives, both previous to and after the seeds have been sown, are sufficient evidence that there are many holders of the land who are either totally ignorant of, or careless about those principles upon which Agriculture is founded. That such principles do exist is well known, to all who have studied the subject; and although the following observations may not contain anything that is new to many readers of this Journal, we think that a brief examination of what constitutes Systematic Farming, may not be entirely useless.

The great object of Systematic Farming, is to extract a large amount of produce from the soil, whilst the fertility of land is not impaired, but rather increased. This is effected in consequence of certain features which characterize this description of farming and to which we shall allude in detail. The first point to be noticed is, that in Systematic Farming the true nature of the soil is carefully attended to, and when we say this, we must not be understood as meaning that it is only what may be styled the distinguishing nature of the various soils, such as being either clayey, or sandy, or any of the other names by which the various classes of soils are designated, that is considered by the systematic farmer; it is the real nature of the soil as being a storehouse of these substances, which are the elements out of which the perfect plant is formed, that is attended to by him. As the fertillity of any portion of the

land consists in the amount which it contains of those substances which form the greater proportion of the food of plants. it is evident that the most prudent system of cultivation will be that which, whilst extracting that amount of food required to such crops as are being cultivated, will at the same time provide against the possibility of those substances being exhausted, and consequently of the land becoming barren. It is now well known the although all plants derive their nourishment from the soil, yet that each species requires certain kinds and proportio is of food peculiar to itself. It is upon this therefore that the fundemental principle of systematic farming is founded, namely, that two crops of the same kind ought not to follow in immediate succession, but that they must be alternated with crops of a different species. The manner in which this is effected will be best understood by the following rotations or succeesions of crops. The most simple alternations of crops is the four course, namely: 1, Green crops; 2. Grain, 3. Clover; 4. Grain. The six shift course gives us a greater variety. It is as follows: 1. Green crops: 2. Grain; 3. Clover; 4. Grain; 5. Beans or potatoes 6. Grain. In neither of these rotations are there two crops following each other in immediate succession; yet in each course one half of the land is under grain crops. As an illustration of a badly arranged succession of crops, we shall now give that which is followed by many occupiers of land in this country. 1st, potatoes or green crops; 2d, grain; 3d, grain; 4th grain; 5th, grass; 6th, grain. Here the grain crops (wheat, oats, and barley) follow each other without any other crops intervening, until such time as the whole or the greater part of those substances neccessary for the production of this class of plants is abstracted from the soil. In the rotation first stated this is avoided, and the result is a greater amount of produce during an equal number of years than is obtained under the last mentioned succession. This increased produce is also attributable to certain other facts which characterize systematic farming, first, the regular and liberal manuring which the land receives, and the opportunities which are afforded for cleaning the land by the removal of weeds. Under the four course shift manure is applied once during the rotation, that is the green crops and clover and rye-grass. In the six course shift the land is manured twice during the rotation, namely to the green crops in the first year of the course, and the beans or potatoes in the fifth year. The weeding of the land is also effected at the same periods. In the succession usually followed we have, properly speaking, only one crop which is manured, namely, the potatoes or green crops in the first year although certainly a small portion is generally laid on the stubble of the the third crop; but as there are almost no crops grown in this succession which produce manure (except straw,) the quantity annually accumulated is very limited, and its quality very inferior. Besides this the arrangement of the grain crop is such as to encourage the growth of certain weeds, such as scutch, wild mustard, &c., all of which when once established in a soil are extremely difficult to eradicate. Those who follow this mode of farming do not seem to attach a proper degree of importance to weeding, for we often see such persons even at times when some of the weeds might be removed, busily engaged in plowing them down with the vain expectation that they will decay in the soil, whereas they are only multiplying them, and doing all in their power to encourage the grwoth of the most pernicious class of plants.

—o—

Remedy for Choked Cattle.—A few years since, a man in Vermont published a manner of relieving choked cattle, under the sanction of his name, which he averred would infallibly and instantly relieve animals from that distressed situation. We do not think it generally known, nor do we comprehend the rationale of the operation, unless it acts by irritating the pharynx or larynx of the throat, and causing the spasmodic action of the respiratory muscles, by which the offending substance is ejected.

His directions are as follows:—"Take gun powder—the most convenient way is to put it in a paper like a common cartridge, say three inches in length—introduce it into the throat of the animal with the hand—all farmers know how this is done by holding out the tongue;—let the head of the creature be held up for a moment to prevent spitting out the powder, and the choking substance will be instantly ejected. Remember and try it, as by this simple means many valuable animals have been saved."

A correspondent of the Mass. Ploughman gives a similar remedy as follows.—"Warm a small quantity of lard and mix with it a small quantity of gun powder, and pour it into the throat in the usual manner,—not handling the tongue. I once prepared a second dose, but had no occasion to use it.

Scalding Milk.—I noticed in your paper of Sept. 25, an article under the above caption, which states that in Devonshire, England, milk is scalded as soon as taken from the cow, &c. This is not exactly correct, but cannot state for certain what is done in Devshire; but in Cornwall, the county next adjoining, the process is to strain the milk in pans of about two and a half gallons, and let it cool in the dairy. Some of these dairies are so constructed as to have a small stream of water to set every pan in to cool. It should be cooled before scalding; the milk taken at night is scalded the next morning; that taken in the morning in the afternoon. Care must be taken to place the pan over a slow fire, so slow that it would take from thirty to forty minutes to bring it to a scalding heat, which can be easily ascertained by noticing a slight swell in the milk. It is then taken from the fire and set away to cool as before. The cream is then taken off in twenty-four or thirty hours from the time of milking, as needed. Cream from milk thus managed is delicious—too good to talk about—and so rich and thick that I have seen a common dinner plate laid in a pan on the cream, without breaking the surface of the cream.—[Dollar Newspaper.

The tree is known by its fruits.

From the National Intelligencer.

Agricultural Geology.—No. 2.

BY JOSIAH HOLBROOK.

Rocks are the oxydes of metals. Silex, the most abundant ingredient in rocks, mountains and soils, is the oxyde of silecium. This oxyde constitutes nearly one-half of the solid matter of our globe. It is the principal element of quartz, in all its varieties, which are exceedingly numerous, and some of them very beautiful. Quartz is the only mineral found everywhere. Sand is pulverized quartz. Pebbles are fragments of quartz, rounded by attrition. Gunflint is quartz breaking with a conchoidal (shell-like) fracture. Jasper is red quartz, with a fine compact texture. Amethyst is purble quartz, frequently found in sixsided crystals, which is the common shape of quartz crystals in its different varieties. Agate is clouded quarts, in numerous varieties, some of which are much used for watch seals, finger rings, breast pins and other ornaments. Cornelian is quartz of a fine texture and of a yellowish red color. Chalcedone, bloodstone, catseye, and many other gems are varieties of quartz.

Most, perhaps all the gems used in the breast plate of Aaron, the high priest, were quartz of different textures, colors and hues. The precions stones presented by the Queen of Sheba, to the King of Israel were probably quartz.—The stones mentioned in the book of Revelations as forming the streets of the New Jerusalem, with all the gems referred to, were but varieties of the stones used for paving our streets, and of the earth moved by the plough and the hoe of the farmer, and of the dirt carted for filling our docks.

The coloring matter giving most of the beautiful hues to gems, and an endless variety of colors to quartz, is the oxyde of iron. The oxyde of silecium and the oxyde of iron are hence united in this same most abundant mineral in the world.

Next to quartz feldspar or clay, formed by the decomposition of feldspar, is the most abundant element of soils. This, too, is composed of several oxydes of metals in chemical combination. Feldspar is also very extensively united with quartz in the formation of rocks, not by chemical combination. but chemical mixture. The feldspar and the quartz can be separated by the hammer. Not so with the oxygen and silecium forming silex. Chemical agency alone can separate chemical combinations. Such combinations in rocks, soils and other mineral bodies are exceedingly numerous, complicated and delicate. The most common stone that meets the eye in any part of the world is composed of two oxydes. The oxygen and the metals are each united by the chemical affinity, and then the two oxydes are again combined by the same agency to form a "common stone," evidently worthy of more regard than it commonly receives.

An experiment: Poor upon a little pearlash in a tumbler some strong vinegar. An effervescence will follow, producing carbonic acid. A burning candle immersed will be extinguished, showing that carbonic acid is fatal to combustion. It is equally so to life.

Mrs. Jones' Experience.

BY FRANCES D. GAGE.

Pomological Congress and Cooper Apple—Premiums for Children.

"Decided against the Cooper apple, did they," said Mrs. Jones the other night at the sewing circle, as she lifted her needle and thread a little nearer the nice white home made tallow candle. Not that Mrs. Jones' eyesight is failing, but she was a little excited. "Decided against the Cooper apple, did they, in their Pomological Congress. I wish that Dr. what d'ye call him? from Illinois was here to-night, and I think we would make him rescind his resolutions. Wonder if he or that other Mr. Somebody you were telling about, ever eat a real Cooper apple—as huge a specimen as this—picked just when it was ripe. and kept till it was a little riper, mellow, juicy and rich, with its half crimson, half scarlet tint on one side, and its bright pea green, verging into yellow and gold, on the other. If they had, they never would have thought of its condemnation. No, and they never could have eaten one of them baked, or made into a pie, or have taken a bushel of them to market among the Pearmains, Seek-no-furthers and Gilly flowers, and witnessed the avidity with which they were sought out—the willingness to pay a little extra for the Coopers. If they had, they never would have voted down the Cooper apple. But I believe in woman's rights, and surely the housewife ought to know as well as her husband what apple is the most palatable and useful in all ways; and I move, ladies, that we get up a congress of women, and pass resolutions 'that the Cooper apple is a rich, juicy apple, good for cooking and surpassed by none for the table from September till Christmas; and that we therefore recommend it to all the farmers and nursery men of southern Ohio as a fall apple well worthy of cultivation.'

2. *Resolved*, That whenever our husbands or sons set out a new orchard we will require them to put out at least six good Cooper apple trees, for the benefit of the family in particular and the neighbors in general, because every body loves them.'

"There, ladies, how many of you will say 'aye' to those resolutions? Every one of you? Well, that is better than I expected. Let us just set ourselves about it, and stand by our favorites, the Cooper and the Pearmain, and all the Pomological Congressmen in the Union cannot drive them out of our neighborhood.

"And, ladies, I have another word to say about that Fair. In looking over the long list of premiums and diplomas awarded, I find very few have gone to the women. Now I would like to know what right the men have to premiums for butter and cheese, for making vases of flowers out of sugar, or stitching shirt bosoms, making bread, or even for the best boquets or pyramids of dahlias. These things ought by right to be engrossed by us, and would be, if we chose to engross them. And among all the inventions for labor saving, I see but one article for a help to the housewife, and that it is a washing machine. Now if the men dont choose to invent for us, why not invent and contrive for ourselves? We have wit and ingenuity enough, if we will only set ourselves about it. I confess, I felt a little humbled and ashamed to see the ladies' list narrowed down to bed quilts, crotchet work and embroidery. Now the ladies need not plead that they have not time; the woman who could embroider that carricature of Henry Clay, has had time to make or invent a steam engine. Suppose we propose to the committee to offer a premium to the mother of the best trained and educated family of five children, with the rosiest cheeks, the brightest eyes and the glossiest hair, without oil or perfumery; children that can dance the lightest, run the swiftest, jump the highest and lift the largest stick of wood. Such a premium would be worth having, and would make our mothers look upon their children as the Roman mothers did of old—as their 'jewels.' What are you all laughing about? If such a reward were offered, how many of us would dare present our pale faced children? I've been thinking these many years that while the health and comfort of the farmers' stock out of doors was so sedulously cared for, the stock by the fireside was sadly neglected, and that bowed backs, round shoulders, weak lungs, trembling nerves and dyspeptic stomachs were too common even among the sons and daughters of the farmers.

"Mary, Jane, and Eunice, and Kate, when you go around to-morrow to distribute these garments to the poor, look around and see what else is needed to make them comfortable. But really it is nine o'clock; I must go." F. D. G.

[Ohio Cultivator.

BREEDING ANIMALS.—The principles of breeding animals have rather been illustrated than discovered by animal physiology—the very principles of that science having been taught before a single scientific axiom had been applied.

The watching of physiological tendencies, and availing themselves of these judiciously in practice, was long anterior to scientific research. Emulating the wily progenitor of the Jewish race, and intelligently perceiving what was required, a Culey and a Bakewell attempted and attained the production of sheep, and of cattle "ring-streaked spotted and speckled," at pleasure Seeing the necessity of economising food, they set about producing these animals which came to maturity early, and so produced vastly more food from the same amount of vegetation. Knowing that fat was an element of favor in a northern clime, they endeavored to obtain animals with a tendency to secrete it in large quantities. In order to do this, they observed the qualities indicative of these propensities; and knowing that it is true in physiology as in mathematics, that like produces like, they selected and bred from these until they stamped their qualities permanently and invariably and indelibly on the race. With these they managed to combine symmetry of form.—*Far. Mag.*

Effects of Food on Milk.

Mr. COLE: I wish to make some inquiry, through the medium of your valuable paper, conderning the method used by the dairymen who use carrots and other roots as feed for milch cows. Now, with me there is a difficulty which I have hitherto been unable to overcome in this matter. I can taste the feed in the butter. If the cows are allowed to feed on land where leeks grow, the butter is scarcely fit to feed to hogs. Moreover, if the cows are allowed to feed in swamps, then something combines with the milk, we know not what it is, and the butter is neither fit to eat or sell. We have sometimes allowed our cows to feed on turnips, cabbages and carrots; but I can always taste the food given to the cows in the butter, except when they are fed on Indian meal, pure grass only, or hay clear from weeds.

I frequently read of good dairy people living near the cities, and I understand they make great use of the roots to feed to cows in milk, as well as other stock; and I hear of no complaint of the effluvia communicated to their butter, or even the milk, where there is so much sold every day in the year. Am I mistaken? I think I can most certainly taste any thing in butter that ought not to be found there. Is there any way to prepare roots so as to prevent them, when fed to cows from communicating any disagreeable or unpleasant flavor to the milk? If so, why do not some of the wise ones speak out and let the public know about these matters? Or have they done so, and I did not observe it?

We believe our agricultural editors know a great deal about such matters; and we are inclined to look to them for information on agricultural subjects as we would to Webster's Dictionary for the true definition of words. Respectfully yours,

JOHN M. WEEKS.

WEST FARMS, near Middlebury, Vt. Nov. 1, 1850.

REMARKS.—The subject here presented is one of great importance both to the farmer and consumer; and we hope that some of our correspondents will attend to it, and prescribe some remedy or abatement of the evil complained of, and show what kinds of food are most desirable for milch cows, otherwise than the common staple articles, good sweet grass and hay.—*N. E. Farmer.*

Book Farming.—Many of our farming population are opposed to what they term "book farming," and consider it extremely absurd to suppose that knowledge on the subject of agriculture can be obtained from books. My opinion does not harmonise with the farmers referred to; and, as far as my observation extends, the opponents of "book farming" are as ignorant of the science of husbandry, as they are of their own interests, and the true means of promoting them. Have you a neighbor whose farm is mortgaged for near its full value, who pays no debt until called on by a sheriff, whose dress is neither clean, tidy or comfortable, and whose fare is of the coarsest and poorest kind, depend upon it, he does not patronise an Agricultural paper, nor believe in "book farming." Whose fences and buildings are going into decay? Whose pigs, horses and cows either run in the road or live in the fields of a neighbor? Whose children are not seen at school, nor taught as they should be at home? It is he who sneers at "book farming." His mind and his fields are equally barren—about his abode no semblance of comfort appears; he despises "book farming"

No better evidence of the value and utility of Agricultural Journals need be required, than the patronage they receive from those farmers who are intelligent and shrewd, and whose labors are amply rewarded, because directed with knowledge and skill. It will not be maintained that reading alone will qualify an agriculturist for the high and important duties of his honorable calling, but it may be made a powerful auxiliary in helping the hands, and improving the head, as it communicates the results of the experiments of practical cultivators, who are generally independent in their circumstances, enlightened and liberal in their views, and with hardly an exception, love books and "book farming.—[American Farmer.

Wheat Crop in England.—We copy from the "Banker's Circular," England, he following statements regarding the produce of the late wheat harvest in England, as containing much to interest our readers, the wheat and corn growers in this country. The writer observes:

My estimate of the deficiency of this year's crop of wheat has been confirmed by the judgment of many of the most searching inquiries into the subject. No single county of England will yield an average supply; and that part of the country which will approach nearest to an average is a comparatively narrow strip which lies near to the southern coast, in the counties of Hampshire and Sussex and a part of Kent, such as the chalk land of the Isle of Thanet; these come nesrer to the general annual level than any other part of the east coast, but the crops in the Weald of Kent are bad. There appears to me no reason why the general accuracy of my account should not be taken as a basis for the following observations:

1. That the British wheat harvest of 1850 will fall below an average by at least three millions of quarters and below that of 1849 by at least five millions. Even in Norfolk, where there is a party of anti-croakers, all admit that the deficiency in favored districts is not less than a coom or four bushels to the acre; the same was said in the Isle of Thanet and on the south coast of Hampshire and Sussex. This describes near one-sixth deficiency in the best parts of the country. In the fence, instead of the customary quantity of four or five quarters to the acre, many of the small farmers will not get more than twelve to fifteen bushels, and they are ready to take a price not exceeding 30s. or 32s the quarter for what they have—so bad is the quality. Consequently the estimate of five millions of quarters below the crop of 1849, must be considered as established.

2. That the stores of foreign supplies available for the English market are much less in the agregate than they were at this date in 1849.

A Mine of Paint.—We have spent a short time very pleasantly in an examination of the paint mine, recently opened in West Springfield, by Skinner and Hancox, of this town. The substance from which the paint is obtained is a shelly stone, hard in its natural state, but affected like lime by the air. Ground fine, and mixed with oil, it forms, without other ingredients, a neat, durable, fire and water proof paint. The stone lies in diamond-shaped masses, and extends through four square acres of a bluff on the bank of the Agawam river, opposite the Mitteneag factory. Two colors have been obtained so far—slate and freestone. The stone is entirely free from grit, and affords a paint one half or two thirds cheaper than lead. We have been shown very handsome specimens of work done in this paint. An analysis of the stone by Professor Jackson has resulted in a highly favorable report.—[Springfield Mass. Post.

The following directions relative to the care of sheep during the present month are copied from the Northern Shepherd:

Sheep must, in some way, be sheltered from cold rains, as the wind is generally east and north-east. A low or depressed piece of woodland on the south and east side of the pasture may be sufficient. If nothing else can be done, they must be brought to the winter fold in bad storms.

You will be very careful that no sheep stray, and that the fences are kept up at all times, and that the sheep do not contract unruly habits. All the sheep that are breachy, learn it in this month and November, and such a habit must destroy the value of the flock for keeping on a farm. What man can keep an unruly flock of sheep on his premises? These habits may however be prevented, and you must do it. The fine wooled breeds are less subject to be unruly than any other. If ever salt does good it is at this season of the year, and I would salt mine if it were for no other purpose than to tame them.

The Richest Mine.—Besides lime and other enriching substances, the cost of the mere animal manures applied to the soil of England, amounts to three hundred millions of dollars; being more than the value of the whole of its foreign commerce. Yet the grateful soil yields back with interest all that is lavished upon it. And so it would do here, if we would only trust the earth with any portion of our capital. But this we rarely do. A farmer who has made any money, spends it not in his business, but in some other occupation. He buys more land when he ought to buy more manure; or he puts out his money in some joint stock company, to convert sunshine into moonshine—or he buys shares in some gold mine or lead mine. Rely upon it, our richest mine is the barnyard, and whatever temptations stocks or shares may offer, the best investment for a farmer is live stock and plowshares.

Vegetation of Seeds.—Mr. Editor.—I noticed in the Plowman of July 27th, a request of one of your

subscribers, that the directions which appeared in your paper some two years ago, for making a substance to hasten the vegetation of seeds—might be republished. Being in the habit of writing down such receipts on the blank leaves of my diary, in order to test them at the proper season, (a practice, which by the way I would recommend to all interested in these things—it takes but a minute or two, and for such short articles is much preferable to hunting over a file of newspapers.) I referred to the book and found the following:

"Soak garden seeds four hours in a solution of chloride of lime—a quarter of an ounce chloride of lime, to a gallon of water. Seeds thus treated come up sooner, and the plants keep the lead through the season."—*Plowman.*

Jersey Cows.—We copy from the Journal of the N. Y. State Agricultural Society the following communication from Col. Le Couteur, Bellevue, Island of Jersey, on this famous breed of cows:

He writes that he has forwarded through his Excellency, Abbott Lawrence, in answer to our request, lithographic impressions of the Jersey breed of cattle, and the scale of points of a perfect animal of the breed; and also two essays written by Col. Le Couteur, one on the Jersey cow, the other on the culture of the parsnip. The cost of a yearling bull of the pure Jersey breed would be from £10 to £12 sterling, ($48 to $58) delivered at Southampton; and that a yearling prize heifer would be furnished at from £10 to £15.

The breed of cattle familiarly known in Great Britain as the Alderney, and correctly termed in the article Cattle, of the Library of Useful knowledge, the 'crumpled horned," was originally Norman, it is conceived, as cows very similar to them in form and color are to be seen in various parts of Normandy; but the difference in their milking and creaming qualities is really astonishing, the Jersey cow producing nearly double the quantity of butter.

The race is miscalled "Alderney," as far as Jersey is concerned; for about seventy years since, M. Dumas, Esq., of St. Peter's, afterwards the chief magistrate, sent some of the best Jersey cows to his father-in-law, the then proprietor of Alderney; so that the Jersey was already at that period an improved and superior to the Alderney race. It has since been vastly amended in form and generally so in various qualities, though the best of those recorded at that period gave as much milk and butter as the best do now.

Ten years have elapsed since the attempt was first made by fixed rules to improve the form and quality of the Jersey cow. Two beautiful cows were selected, with the best qualities, as models. One of these two was held to be perfect in her barrel and fore quarters; the other equally so in her hind quarters. From these two, points thirty-six in number were laid down to be the rule for governing the judges in all the cattle-shows of the Jersey Agricultural Society.

Beautifying the Homestead.—We are pleased to learn that this interesting subject has attracted the notice of at least one agricultural society. The following is taken from the report of a committee appointed by the Rensselaer, N. Y., Agricultural Society, on this subject:

What should the farmer do in return to the artisan, whose life is wasted by anxious and ceaseless toil, and who is shut out from rural blessings? We answer do his duty to himself; it is all that is asked or required of him. We claim it to be the duty of every man who is a farmer, to plant fruit and ornamental trees, to cultivate and grow the wine, as well as useful vegetables; to beautify and adorn his grounds and garden with flowers, plants and shrubbery, and so arrange his yards and grounds as to give his habitation as Eden-like an appearance as possible. Should our farmers be thus true to themselves, and dutiful to nature, then with truth of our country it might be said, in the language of the poet 'tis:

"The land of the myrtle, of cypress and vine,
Where all but the spirit of man is divine!"

Nothing is so attractive to the traveller as the fine "country residences." They are something for the eye to feast upon. They please the imagination, cheer the heart and bring with them all the associations of happiness and home. "Country seat" gives value to the farm upon which it is situated.

One blessing follows another. Sociality, refinement and learning follow in the train of rural improvement. The mind keeps pace with the outer man and the love of the nature inspires the mind with the love of the useful and the good. It stops not then;—it teaches the mind "to look from nature up to nature's God."

Your committee would therefore recommend the adoption of the accompanying resolution by the society:—

Resolved, That the Rensselaer County Agricultural Society, for the purpose of giving encouragement to those who will "beautify and adorn" their "country seats," hereby establish an award on "country seats," including dwelling, grounds, gardens, trees and shrubbery; and will in the annual report of this society to the State society, of the drawing and description of such "country seat" as the society shall by their committee deem advisable.

Resolved, That a committee consisting of five members of this society, shall be appointed in the same manner as other committees of the society are, to be called "A Committee on Country Seats," whose duty it shall be, at each annual fair, to examine and report upon all such drawings and descriptions of "country seats" entered for competition. Said committee, in their award, shall designate the name of the "country seats" entitled to the honor of said recommendation to the State Society, and shall likewise award said successful competitor each a diploma, and a copy of the Transactions of the State society and of the American Institute.

Resolved, That any person, a member of the "Rensselaer County Agricultural Society," owning or having an interest in any "country seat" in this county, who shall on or previous to the first day of each annual fair, make, or cause to be made, an accurate drawing and description of such "country seat," and file the same with the recording secretary of this Society, shall be entitled to compete for the honors above specified.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

In 1774, an apparently deserted ship was met in the polar sea, encumbered with snow and ice. On boarding her, a solitary man was found in the cabin, his fingers holding a pen, while before him lay the record which he had traced twelve years before. No appearance of decay was visible, except a little green mould upon his forehead.

Tilling Orchards.

There has been no inconsiderable discussion in regard to the best culture for orchards, and many opinions entirely conflicting with each other have been advanced. The Rural New Yorker gives the following advice:

All fruit trees experience great advantage from the tillage of the earth, even if manure is not applied, by keeping the ground open to the influence of heat, water, and air. When the grasses form a firm and compact sod over the entire roots they do not only absorb a great portion of the nutriment required by the tree, but from the close and fibrous nature of the grass roots absorb and keep all the water that falls in ordinary summer showers, depriving the trees, which, from the great exertions required to produce fruit and make new wood, needs all and often more during certain periods that nature supplies them.

Timothy is the least objectionable for an orchard, and it alone never forms a very closely interwoven sward; only increasing by offsets like wheat, it exists in clumps. Where clover may be added to the same class of noncombatants of fruit trees, as its roots skim the surface and never penetrate deep, they leave a tender permeable sward. Red clover perhaps maintains the most open and porous soil of any of the articles used for stocking or rotating crops, but still it is esteemed as having a very deleterious effect on orchards, particularly on young trees, as the roots penetrate deeply, and dispute the possession of the moisture and nutritive gases belonging to and absolutely necessary for the life and existence of the tree.

But those grasses that increase by snake heads or runners under ground, like June quack, redtop, and various others, are most decidedly detrimental, from their impervious compactness and hard feeding on soil.

Young orchards should be kept under the hoe till the trees acquire a strong, healthy growth, and begin to bear cleverly, when they may be rotated with grain and grasses. In manuring for corn and other hoed crops manure the trees, and hoe and dress them out as carefully as you would the corn plants.

In plowing be careful to shallow the furrow near the roots, which reach out as far or father than the tops do, or you not only cut off the supplies of the tree but cause the broken roots to send up a multitude of suckers, detrimental to the fruit and troublesome in cultivation.

Where grass has got possession of an orchard or fruitery, and it is not convenient to cultivate it, a very good process is to give a strong coat of chip manure, or straw or hay from the stacks, so thick as to smother the grasses and cause the turf to rot. Care must be taken in the fall to clear away the base of the tree to deter the depredations of mice.

Many persons think if they throw rotten vegetable substances a foot or two around the tree they have done a clever thing, but it is a great mistake; the roots extend many feet and the fine spongioles or absorbents are mostly at the extremity of the roots, and not immediately upon the hole or the neck of the tree.

A Fact in deep Plowing.—Having been for a long time an attentive reader of the "Newspaper," especially the farmers' department, and having seen many articles on the cultivation of corn, I have concluded to give my experience for the last two years. Previous to that I had followed the old plan of shallow plowing and high hilling. Now for the other way: In the spring of 1849, I took five acres of ground that had wheat on it the year before, and had for a number of years been rather hard by sowing to wheat one year and planting to corn the next, until the surface soil was worn so low that twelve bushels of wheat and forty or fifty of corn was an average crop. On the five acres I put eighty-seven loads of barn yard manure, the greater part of it straw, only partially rotted, and plowed it as follows: Taking two teams and two plows I begun by turning a furrow seven inches deep with the first plow, then followed in the same furrow with the other plow, turning a nother furrow six inches deep, making thirteen inches of soil turned. I then harrowed and marked it out, making the rows four feet apart both ways, and planted on the 22d of May. As soon as the corn was large enough to follow the rows I cultivated it both ways, and had a man to follow with a hoe to set up the hills that were partially covered up. I went through it twice afterwards with a cultivator, but made no hills, leaving the surface as level as possible. I cut it up the seventeenth of September, and from the five acres husked seven hundred and six bushels of ears. Now I don't call this a brag crop, for I am well aware it can be beat but it shows the difference between half doing work and doing it well. The corn was hauled off and the ground sowed to wheat, being plowed as deep as a span of horses could plow it, and from the same ground I have this year harvested and threshed one hundred and ninety bushels—thirty-eight bushels to the acre.

I have manuaged my corn ground in the same manner this season and from the present appearances shall have as good a crop as I had last.—[Dollar Newspaper.

Remedy for the Scours.—We find in one of our exchanges the following remedy against that disease, which may be valuable to our correspondents:

In scours, the surface evaporates too little of the moisture, and should be relaxed by diffusable stimulants in the form of ginger-tea. The treatment that I have found the more succesiful, is as follows: take four ounces raw linseed oil—two ounces of lime water—mix. Let this quantity be given to a sheep on the first appearance of the above disease; half the quantity will suffice for a lamb. Give about a wine glass full of ginger-tea at intervals of four hours. Let the animals be fed on gruel or mashes of ground meal. If the above treatment fails to arrest the disease, add half a teaspoon full of powdered bayberry bark to each wine glass of tea. If the extremeties are cole, rub them with the tincture of capsicum.

The feeding of pine boughs we have formerly practiced, and think to be useful. Pine has a revulsive action on the skin is stimulant and and diuretic, and if used occasionally might be the means of preventing many forms of disease in animals.

To take Honey from Bees.—The common practice of killing the bees in order to obtain the honey few can witness without some little compunction; and there is a very simple method of effecting the object without any injury to this most interesting little animal, which on the score of interest, as well as humanity claims regard, I beg leave to communicate it through your paper, should you deem it worthy of a place in it.

In the evening when the bees have retired, take the hive gently from its stand, and having spread a table cloth on the ground, set the hive gently on it, placing something under to raise it three or four inches; then draw up the corner of the cloth and fasten it tight around the middle of the hive. Then raise the lid of the hive and blow in the smoke of a cigar, a few puffs of which will drive them down. Continue raising the lid gradually, blowing in the smoke all around, and in a few moments it will be found that they have all gone out of the hive. You may then take off the lid and take away as much of the honey as you think proper. If the operation be performed in July, you may take nearly all, as there will be time enough to provide a sufficiency for their support during the winter. As soon as you have taken the honey, put on the lid, loosen the cloth and spread it out and in an hour or two the bees will have returned to the hive. It may then be replaced on the stand, and on the following day they will be found at work as usual.

This is the shortest, best and most simple way of getting honey from a hive of bees that I have ever seen or heard of.—[Dollar Newspaper.

Late from Sir John Ross—Extraordinary Flight of Carrier Pigeons.—We have learned from a private source, that on Friday last two of the carrier pigeons taken by Sir John Ross, when he left the port of Ayr, and some of which were to be dispatched home in the event of his either finding Sir John Franklin, or being frozen in, arrived at Ayr, finding their way at once to the dove cot which they occupied previous to being taken away. The birds, we understand, arrived within a short time of each other; but neither of them, we regret to be informed, conveyed anything in the shape of a note or letter of any kind. One of them, indeed, which may have had some document attached, was found to be considerably mutilated, its legs having apparently been shot away. The time they were liberated by Sir John Ross, is of course uncertain, but taking into conside ration the well known powers of flight possessed by the carrier pig on, it cannot be very long since they left our gallant countrymen. The arrival of authentic news from the Arctic regions will be looked for[illegible] to with additional anxiety, from the probability wh[illegible] now arisen, that some tidings have been heard of Sir John Franklin. Independent, however, of the interest which otherwise attaches to the extraordinary flight of the pigeons, it will be regarded by naturalists as a most remarkable incident. We do not recollect of any paralle to it. The distance the creatures must have traversed cannot be far short of 2,000 miles; and as they travel by sight and not by scent, the fact is the more extraordinary. Sir John Ross, we believe, took five pigeons with him which, it may be remembered, were stated in the last accounts received of him, to have been at that time all alive. So that there are still three to be accounted for.—*North British Mail.*

We notice that a writer in Palmyra Whig is endeavoring to get up an Oregon emigration excitement, as that country he says, now "offers the great at inducements to the farmer of any in the world, and he may be paid for going there, as the gives land for nothing of those who settle there. But we hope the people of this State who are doing "well enough," will not be misled by flaming and exagerated accounts of the new territories. The feverish search after the land of promise, in the far west has retarded the prosperity of this country for years—and often proved disasterous to adventurers. It is a folly to seek for better lands or better health in Oregon than here. The climate is the same—the diseases are the same, as soon as the country becomes settled, and the desirable parts are small and already occupied. A Mr. Kitchen of this county, an intelligent man, who went out with Judge Samuel Burch in 1846, has lately returned from Oregon and California. His observations have been extensive, and he has not been unfortunate; yet we understand he comes back here to settle from choice. Those who have been tempted by general representations to move to Oregon, we would advise to consult Mr. Kitchen, living in Judge Hurt's neighborhood before they leave a pleasant home and friends in Missouri.—[Brunswicker.

The President's Message has been published in the papers and probably read by most of our readers. He seconds the recommendation of President Taylor for an Agricultural Bureau, as follows:

"More than three-fourths of our population are engaged in the cultivation of the soil. The commercial, manufacturing and navigating interests are all, to a great extent, dependent on the agricultural. It is, therefore the most important interest of the nation, and has a just claim to the fostering care and protection of this government, so far as they can be extended, consistently with the provisions of the Constitution, as this cannot be done by the ordinary mode of legislation. I respectfully recommend the establishment of an Agricultural Bureau to be charged with giving to this, the leading branch of American industry, the encouragement which it so well deserves.

"In view of the immense mineral resources of our country, provision should be required, under the direction of the head of the Bureau to collect spacimens of the various minerals of our country, and to ascertain, by careful analysis, their respective elements and properties, and their adaptation to the useful purposes. Ae shoule also be required to examine and report upon the qualities of different soils, and the manures best calculated to improve their productiveness. By publishing the results of such experiments, with suitable explanations, and by the collection and distribution of rare seeds and plants, with instructions as to the best system of cultivation, much may be done to promote this great national interest."

We hope Congress will find time this session to attend to this matter so important to the agriculturists of the land.

Wonderful Sagacity of a Horse.—The following incident is related by the Long Point (Canada) Advocate: A few days since, as we were leaving our residence on our usual visit to the Advocate office, a sorrel horse belonging to us, galloped up and caught our arm, and made an attempt to pull us in the direction he wished us to go. He then left and went off at a quick gait towards a pasture near our residence. In a few minutes he approached us again, making an unusual noise, and seemed by his actions to desire us to follow him. This we did, and when we reached the pasture we observed the mate of the horse entangled in a bridge which had broken down with him. After we had extricated his companion from his dangerous position, the horse which had given us notice of his companion's danger, came up and rubbed his head against us, showing evident signs of great satisfaction.

Short Horns.

Short Horns.—In his "Compend of American Agriculture," Mr. Allen says:—

"The Shorthorns or Durhams are decidedly the most showy and taking among the cattle species. They are of all colors, from the pure deep red to the creamy white but generally have both intermixed in larger or smaller patches, or intimately blended in the beautiful roan. Black, brown, or brindle are not recognized among pure bred short-horns. Their form is well spread, symmetrical and imposing, and capable of sustaining a large weight of valuable carcass. The horn was originally branching, and turned upward, but now frequently has a downward tendency, with the tips pointing toward each other. They are light and comparatively short, clear, highly polished and waxy. The head is finely formed with a longer face, but not so fine a muzzle as the Devon. The neck is delicately formed without any dewlap; the brisket projecting, and the great depth and width of the chest giving short well spread fore legs. The crops are good; back and loin broad and flat; ribs projecting; deep flank and twist; tail well set up, strong at the roots. They have a thick covering of soft hair, and are mellow to the touch, technically termed "handling well." They mature early and rapidly for the quantity of food consumed, yielding largely of good beef with little offal. As a breed they are excellent milkers, though some families of short horns surpass others in this quality. The short-horns are assigned a high antiquity by the oldest breeders in the counties of Durham and Yorkshire, England, the place of their origin, and for a long time, of their most exclusive breeding."

The Five Peaches.

Farmer Day brought five peaches from the city, the finest that were to be found. But this was the first time that the children had seen any fruit of the kind. So they admired and greatly rejoiced over the beautiful peaches with red cheeks and soft pulps. The father gave one to each of his four sons, and the fifth to their mother.

In the evening, as the children were about to retire to sleep, their father inquired, "Well boys how did the peaches taste?"

"Excellent, dear father," said the eldest. "It is a beautiful fruit, so juicy and so plesent. I've carefully preserved the stone, and will cultivate a tree for myself."

"Well done," said the father. "This is husbandry; to provide for the future, and is becoming a farmer."

"I ate mine," exclaimed the youngest, "and threw away the stone, and mother gave me half of hers. Oh, that tasted so sweet and melted in my mouth."

"You," said the father, "have not acted very prudently, but in a natural and childlike manner. There is still time enough in your life to practice wisdom."

"Then the second began. "I picked up the stone which my little brother threw away and cracked it open; it contained a kernel that tasted as good as a nut. And my peach I sold and got money enough to buy twelve more when I go to the city."

The farmer patted him on the head, saying, "That was indeed prudent, but it was not natural for a child."

"And you, Edmund?" inquired the father.

Frankly and ingeniously Edmund replied, "I carried my peach to George, the son of our neighbor who is sick with fever. He refused to take it, but I laid it on the bed and came away."

"Now," said the father, "who has made the best use of the peaches?"

All exclaimed; "Brother Edmund!"

But Edmund was silent; and his mother embraced him with a tear in her eye.

Humbugs among Farmers.

Our most skillful farmers are often annoyed with Bugs of various kinds. The Squash Bug, the Striped Bug, and the Rose Bug are committing their annual depredations on the chice products of the field and garden. Much loss is occasioned by the summer visits of these small samples of the works of Creation and Providence, and their seems to be no patent mode provided to exterminateor to avoid these fellow creatures of earth.

But the bug that does more harm than any is the Hum Bug. This little fellow is often hatched out of nothing, and Noah felt under no more obligation to take him into the Ark than to take in fish, or any of the amphibious animals that needed no protection from the forty-day flood.

The Hum Bug often springs up, like Jonah's Gourd, in a single night, and in a night he vanishes, to the no small wonderment of those who were ignorant of his origin. The space he occupied was large and briliant, and consequently his sudden disappearance occasions the greater void.

Hum Bugs are of various orders and classes, as some know who are not versed in Botany. But the most destructive are those that spring up in a night and give no time to examine the Probocis, Feelers, and Antennæ. Their first appearance is captivating, and as they appear in their best dress they are often purchased at a

high price with an expectation and a promise from their exhibitors, that so far from proving nuisances in their gardens and store rooms they will soon become the most useful laborers on the farm.

We need not a thorough Antiquarian to recall to mind the various kinds of Hum Bugs which have proved troublesome and costly to many farmers. Not to all farmers,—for we have many who turn their faces against all change, ond who are never caught in the silly scrape of attempting to improve upon old practices No, the mischief is that the most generous and liberal —the go-a-head farmers—are the ones that suffer most from the Hum Bugs.

Patent Bee Hives make their appearance every few years, and the honey is to be taken away without loss to the bees. They are to live through the winter by sucking their fingers.

Chambers also have been extolled where bees will never want to swarm, and where the owner has nothing to do but to cut off the comb full of honey.

Silk Culture has flourished greatly, in the books, and we are told that we can save twenty million each year by making our own silk, rather than to import—but then it is to cost sixty millions worth of labor to do it.

But the *Morus Multicaulis* is to come to our aid. This tree will grow so fast that it may be taken up every fall; put into the cellar, and then set out again in the spring, and the roots never mind it they—are transplanted while they are asleep.

The *Rohan potato* next comes to yield us a thousand bushels per acre, and the seed potato can be purchased for twenty five cents each, in case there are not two bidders for the same article.

Tree Corn comes next and farmers are told that they need be at no more expense in growing tree corn than in growing forest trees.

Chinese poultry must be treated kindly—at least the subject must—for it is yet a mooted question whether a fowl of ten lbs. can be kept at as little cost as one of three.

Farming-by-the-Book should be named in this connexion; and why should not this subject be writen upon as well as other Hum Bugs of the day. Farmers are beginning to make a distinction between the writings of practical men and mere theorists who have no pratical knowledge of the subject on which they write.

Yet still there are thousands who doubt whetner the dirty business of farming ought ever to be put on clean white paper. They imagine that he who can write with facility must have been bred a clerk, a lawyer, or a clergyman, and therefore cannot understand much about practical farming.

Farmers are often led astray by stray writers—but we live in a free country, and must not petition to suppress such publications, as do the rulers of Republican France.

Farmers should not fear but be willing to hear both sides and then they can judge for themselves.—*Mass. Ploughman.*

From the Ohio Cultivator.

AUTUMN AND WINTER.

BY FRANCES D. GAGE.

The Autumn is going with lis beauty so glowing,
And winter o'er all things is casting its pall;
The rose-tree is fading—no longer 'tis shading
The arbor of love or the bright waterfall.

The dahlias are lopping, the ripe fruit is dropping,
The corn-leaves are withered and dry on the stalk;
The ring-dove is sighing, the grasshopper dying,
The fire-fly no louger enlivens the walk.

The forests are changing the wild birds are ranging,
To hunt out a home where the skies are more clear;
The streams deeper flowing, the chilly winds blowing,
All tell us that winter, cold winter, is near.

Summer's sweets, while we're tasting, away are all hasting;
The days of the peach and the melon are o'er;
Then let us be trying, while Autumn is dying,
To lay up for winter a plentiful store.

Work freer and harder, fill the barn and the larder;
Then give to old Winter, whene'er he shall come,
A welcome most willing; we'll heed not his chilling,
If there's warmth round the hearthstone, and plenty at home.

But while we are cheerful, no cause to be tearful,
Let us think of the children of sorrow and wrong,
And give from our treasure, with no stinted measure,
Of the good gifts of Heaven, to help them along.

THE FARMER'S SONG.

The following song, written by Epes Sargent, was sung at a recent Agricultural gathering near Boston:

The camp has had its day of song;
The sword, the bayonet, the plume,
Have crowded out of rhyme too long
The plow, the anvil, and the loom!
O, not upon the tented fields
Are Freedom's heroes bred alone;
The training of the workshop yields
More heroes true than war has known!

Who drives the bolt, who shapes the steel,
May, with a heart as valient, smite,
As he, who sees the foeman reel
In blood before his blow of might!
The skill that conquers space and time,
That graces life and lightens toil,
May spring from courage more sublime
Than that which makes a realm its spoil.

Let Labor, then, look up and see
His path no pith of honor lacks;
The soldier's rifle yet shall be
Less honored than the woodman's axe!
Let art his own appointment prize,
Nor deem that gold or outward height
Can compensate the worth that lies
In tastes that breed their own deligh!

And may the time draw nearer still
When all this sacred truth shall heed,
That from the thought and from the will
Must all that raises man proceed!
Though pride should hold our calling low,
For us shall duty make it good
And we from truth to truth shall go
Till life and death are understood.

The Rot in Sheep.

The disease in sheep called *rot*, has long been formidable in Europe, and has, in some seasons, been the cause of great losses to the owner of sheep in our country. It is a disease, which is but little understood by the American sheep-owners generally,—so little, indeed, that it had often passed under another name, and the mischief which it occasioned, has been in some instances, attributed to causes which had no connection with the disease. In a lecture lately delivered before the Royal Agricultural Society, by Prof. Simonds, on the "structure and disease of liver," some observations were made which throw much light on the nature of the rot; the means for its prevention, &c. We think a portion of his remarks will be read with advantage.

Prof. Simonds observed that no disease was probably as much feared by the sheep owner, as the rot, and with reason, for it was most destructive to his hopes. It was in common parlance looked on as incurable, and therefore it was all important to inquire into the causes which gave rise to it. He need hardly tell them as practical men, that the prevalence of the rot depended very much on the quality and kind of food consumed by the animal. Some pastures were notorious for the rot in sheep; on other pastures, sheep, under all circumstances, in wet seasons or dry, were pastured with impunity. But as a broad principle, it may be led down that an excess of moisture is prejudicial to the health of the animal. Sheep, by nature, are not only erratic animals, wandering over a large space of ground, but are inhabitants of arid districts. The skill of man has improved the breed and he has naturalized them in moist and temperate climates, but nevertheless, circumstances will take place, which show that the animal has not changed its nature; a wet season occurs, the sheep are exposed to cold and moisture, and the rot spreads among the flocks to a fearful extent. The malady is not confined to England or to Europe, it is found in Asia and Africa, and occurs in Egypt on the rising of the waters of the Nile. These facts are valuable, because they show that the cause of disease is general and not local—that it was not caused by soil or temperature, for it was found that animals in any temperature became affected, and on any soil in certain seasons.

A great deal had been written on the rot in sheep, which he could have wished had never been written. Many talented individuals had devoted their time to its investigation, endeavoring to find some one cause for it, as if it originated from one cause alone. He had mentioned the facts with regard to the land sometimes producing rot and sometimes not; but he would go a step farther and ask this question—was there any particular period of the year when animals were more subject to the attack? Undoubtedly there was. This time of the year (July) was the most likely period, and if a large quantity of rain now fell, the combined heat and moisture would produce a most luxuriant herbage. That herbage would be deficient in nutriment, and danger would be run from the large quantity of moisture in the food acting as a direct excitement to the abnormal functions. When they had disturbance in the liver, and the accumulation of fat consequent on the animals being touched with the rot, it flourished much more than usual; and this reminded the lecturer that he had heard that the celebrated Bakewell was in the habit of placing his sheep on land notorious for rotting them, in order to prevent other people from getting his stock, and to bring them earlier to the market for the butcher.

Referring again to the diseases of the liver, Prof. S. observed that if the bile, in consequence of functional derangement lost its property of converting the chymous mass into nutritious matter, the animal fell away. Every part of the system was supplied with impure blood, for they might as well expect pure water from a poisoned fountain as pure blood when the secretion of the bile was interfered with. The liver being thus diseased, and the blood impure, they would have the existence of parasites of a particular kind. Some persons supposed that these parasites, which from their particular form were called flukes, were the cause of the rot. He regarded them as the effect—but although the effect they multiplied so rapidly, that they became the cause of further disease; before their biliary ducts became filled with flukes, may be restored, but when the flukes exist in abundance, there was no chance of the animal's recovery. Those parties who supposed flukes to be the cause of rot, had perhaps some reason for that opinion. Flukes are oxiparous, they are multiplied by means of eggs, which mingle with the biliary system, and find their way out of the intestinal canal down on the land, for in the feculent matter of rotten sheep might be found millions of flukes. Mr. King, of Bath, unhesitatingly gave it as his opinion that flukes were the cause of the rot, believing that if sheep were pastured on land where their own existed, they would be taken up with food, enter into the ramifications of the biliary ducts, and thus contaminate the whole liver. There was some reason for this assertion, because very little indeed was known with reference to the duration of life in its latent form in the egg. How long the egg would remain without undergoing change, if not placed under circumstances favorable to the development of life was unknown. It was the same with the the ova, so long as it remained in the pasture it underwent no change, but place them in the body of the animal, and subject them to the influence

of heat, the latent life in the animaloule would be developed. There was, therefore, some show of reason for this assertion, for how long life might be maintained in a latent form was not known. Wheat had been locked up for hundreds of years—nay, for thousands—in Egyptian mummies, without undergoing any change, and yet, when planted, has been found prolific.

In conclusion Prof. S. made some observations on the mode of treatment. He was not there to say that rot was in all cases a curative affection, but at the same time he was fully aware that many cases of rot, that are now considered incurable, might be cured, if attention was given to the animals. He mentioned one fact in illustration. About two years ago he purchased seven or eight sheep, all of them giving indisputable proof of rot in its advanced stages. He intended them for experiments and dissection, but as he did not require them all during the winter season, in which only he could dissect, he kept some during the summer. They were supplied with food of the most nutritious quality, and perfectly dry; they were protected from every storm, being placed in a shed, and the result was, that without the application of any medicine. two of those rotten sheep quite recovered; and when he killed them, although he found that the liver had undergone organic lesion, they might have lived on for years. Rot in its advanced stage, was a disease which they may consider analogous to dropsy, an impure fluid accumulated in various parts of the body, chiefly beneath the cellular tissue; and then there was several names given to it; some called it the water rot, others the fluke rot, but it was nothing more nor less than the same disease in different stages. If flukes were present, it was evident that in order to strike at the root of the disease they must get rid of these animals, and that could only be done by bringing about a healthy condition of the system. Nothing that could be done by the application of medicine would act on them to affect their vitality. It is only by strengthening the animal power that they were enabled to give it sufficient tone to throw off the flukes. The next thing was to lessen the action of the ova on the intestinal canal; for this purpose many advocated salt. It was an excellent stimulative of the digestive organs and might also be of service from the chloride of sodium which it contained. So well is its stimulative action known, that some individuals always keep salt in the troughs. That it was an excellent preventive, they had good proof, seeing that it mattered not how moist the pasture be in salt marshes; no sheep were ever attacked by rot in them, whilst those sent there infected very often came back free. Salt therefore must not be neglected, but then came the question, could they not do something more? he believed they could. They must throw tonics into the system, especially those which they got from the mineral kingdom. He should prefer sulphate of iron,—iron was found in animals,—it was one of the constituents of the blood, and used in the form of sulphate, it gave a greater tone and energy than in any other form. Its use, therefore, ought never to be neglected in the earlier stages of the disease. He had already alluded to the fact, that when the liver did not perform its functions, an effort was made by the kidneys to carry out its functions, the kidney should therefore be stimulated, but he must not be supposed to recommend the exhibition of dureties which would produce debility, but of medicines which would give tone and strength to the system and act on the kidneys as well, for which purpose nitric ether was an agent which ought to be administered. The principles he wished to lay down were, to sustain the animals by placing them in a situation, where they should not be exposed to the debilitating effects of cold storms, to supply them with the most nutritious food, such as contained but a very small quantity of water, and as a stimulant to mix it with salt. To administer sulphate of iron, and occasionally doses of nitric ether. He had no doubt that if those principles were carried out, that instead of sending their sheep to the knacker's yard, they would be able, at least in its early stages, to cure the disease and send their sheep to the butcher. —*Cultivator.*

—o—

Advantages of Drilling Wheat.—The advantages claimed for drill culture, in the transactions of the New York State Agricultural Society, are as follows:

1. A saving of seed. Five pecks of wheat drilled in is eqnal to two bushels sowed broadcast; every kernel is neatly covered a uniform depth.

2. A saving of Labor. Any person that can manage a team can complete in the neatest manner, from ten to fifteen acres per day.

3. An Increase of Crop. Small ridges of earth are left between the rows of wheat, which by the action of the frost, slides down and covers the roots, thereby preventing "winter killing." Light and heat are admitted between the rows and prevent injury by rust. A vigorous growth is given to the young plant, and its position in a constantly moist place, prevents injury from drouth.—*American Agriculturist*

Signs of Rain.—The air, when dry, I believe, reflects more red, or heat-making rays; and as dry air is not perfectly transparent, they are again reflected in the horizon. I have generally observed a coppery or yellow sunset to foretell rain, but as indication of wet weather approaching, nothing is more certain than a halo round the moon, which is produced by the precipitated water; and the larger the circle, the nearer the clouds, and consequently the more ready to fall.—*Sir Hum. Davy.*

Illinois.

We think there is no reason to doubt, that the central railroad of Illinois, will be constructed. The magnificent donation of lands by Congress, would seem to place the matter beyond a doubt. But in addition to this, when the project is regarded in its naked simplicity and grandeur—when it is considered that one of its termini is to be on Lake Michigan, another high up on the Mississippi, and another on the Ohio and Mississippi, two of the noblest streams in the world, and that is to traverse a country of unparalled fertility, the imagination can scarcely conceive of an enterprize fraught with more magnificent results.

The first and most obvious of these results, will be the building up of great cities at each of its termini, and especially at Cairo. Chicago and Galena would doubtless grow rapidly, and would soon quadruple their population. But Cairo would spring up as if by magic, and would rapidly fulfil, if she does not exceed the most sanguine predictions of her friends. With the Mississippi on the one side and the Ohio on the other, and with a railroad piercing the centre of the State and resting its other extremities on Lake Michigan and the Upper Mississippi, Cairo would at once overcome all the local obstacles of her position, and assume her rank amongst the proudest cities of the West. With such advantages as she would then possess, she might defy the encroachments of the two great rivers. Money and labor would not then be lacking, to fence out the waters, to drain the surrounding swamps to fill in the low grounds, to erect houses, construct wharves, build steamboats and mills, and to provide all the other conveniences for a vast and varied commerce.

We have never doubted that Cairo was designed by nature as the site of a great city. Let the Central Railroad be completed and she will fulfill her destiny at an early day.

But the building up of three large cities would be the smallest of the benefits which this road would confer upon Illinois. It would open for her products a cheap and certain avenue to market at all seasons; it will build up towns and villages along the whole line of the road; it would enhance the value of her real estate, to the amount of millions; it would foster trade, build up manufacturies, and develop her agricultural interests to an almost incredible degree.

We rejoice at these brilliant prospects of our neighbors across the "Rubicon," and trust her example will be appreciated and imitated by our own people. Of one thing the people of Missouri, and especially of St. Louis, may be assured—that unless we put forth our energies in the great rivalry of states now going on, we will be left far in the wake of our neigbors, and may find out too late to remedy the evil, how great an error we have committed.—[St. Louis Intelligencer.

Burlington, Iowa, is building 30 miles of plank roads.

Canton, Fulton county, is building two lines to the river, one to be free. Fulton county has also commenced in earnest the improvement of Spoon river by slack water navigation to Ellisville.

Beardstown has completed three miles of the plank road to the bluff and will next season extend it to Virginia. "The facilities for marketing which this road and others in contemplation, will give," says the Gazette, "will enhance the value of land in the county, fifty per cent as soon as they are built."

Pittsfield, Pike county, is building a plank road to the river at Florence.

Naperville and Oswego are being connected by a plank road, it is complete to within six miles of Naperville.

Peru, Princeton, Rock Island and other places on the route are engaged in connecting by rail road the Mississippi and Illinois.

The citizens of Beloit on Rock River, a village, containing a population of 2,200, have contributed $1,200 towards the erection of a College building. They have given the college grounds (12 acres) and erected the first edifice, which is of brick, 44 by 64, three stories high, with an attic and cupola.

Beloit College is respectably endowed for an institution of the kind, so young, in a country so new, with a President, four professors and fifteen students in the regular classes, besides some thirty-five pupils in the school connected with it.

Besides the Public schools—one on each side of the river—there are two private schools, one of them a female seminary of rare excellence.

Negotiations are also now in progress for erecting a large and tastefully constructed school building in district No. 1, of sufficient capacity to accommodate four hundred pupils, in which the "gradation system" is to be adopted and the highest department to afford advantages equal to the first class academies, free of tuition to all the pupils in the district qualified to enter it. —*Peoria Press.*

Indiana Railroads.—In a late number of our paper we gave under the above head a table showing that there had been projected in Indiana 1205 miles of railroad, of which there had been completed two hundred and twelve miles. To this, it is highly probable, there will be added in the course of next season, over one hundred miles more of complete road; and we think, it is not going too far, to say that in the course of the next five years our State will contain at least 1,000 miles of railway in use, intersecting every section, and opening new avenues of business to our people, such is the onward course of our enterprising population. Still may we not be excused for saying, that there is a possibility, nay more, we fear, a probability of carrying this matter too far for the safety of those concerned? It is not every railroad, as experience has proved, that will realize the expectations of its proprietors, and meet the anticipations of the stockholders. Roads that are merely local, or that come in close competition with each other, will certainly be less productive than leading lines, without competition, as it depends much upon the amount of through travel and business a road will do, as to its profits and dividends. This is, however, more especially the case on Southern railroads than on Western, as the fertility of our soil is such as to insure a dense agricultural population, yielding a heavy transporting business, and requiring a large amount of return freights for consumption.—[Indianapolis State Jour.

It is said that Capt. Ericson is engaged in producing a steam carriage for use upon plank roads, by which immense loads may be transported, at a good speed with small cost. Fifteen years ago, many attempts were made in England to produce a steam carriage, suitable to use upon common roads, but no experiment resulted profitably. Either the expense of the power, or the softness of the roads prevented the practical introduction of the machines, though many successful steam journeys were performed. There seems to be no good reason why steam power cannot be successfully used on our plank roads, and we have no doubt it soon will be.

Central Railroad.—The New York Tribune says: Some of the leading railroad men and capitalists of this city, in connection with others of Boston and Philadelphia, will apply to the Legislature of the State

of Illinois, at its next session in January, for a charters under the name of the "Great North-western Railroad Company," for the purpose of constructing the proposed railroad from Cairo, at the mouth of the Ohio river, to the southern terminus of the Illinois and Michigan canal, with branches extending to Galena and Dubuque, and to Chicago, embracing, in all, upwards of 650 miles in length.

In aid of this road, it will be recollected that Congress at its last session, granted some two and a half millions acres of land, lying on its route. The provisions of the proposed charter are stated to be very favorable for the State, while, at the same time, it offers inducements which will insure the requisite amount of capital to complete the road in the shortest possible time and without the necessity of disposing of an acre of the donated land, until the road is open for use it whole length.

A Wise Movement.—Fifteen of the large business houses of St. Joseph, in this State, impelled by the many complaints made in the St. Louis and Eastern markets of the slovenly manner in which hemp is prepared for market, have established the following regulations, which will govern them in future purchases:

1. All hemp brought for sale to St. Joseph will be classed into three distinct and separate grades, according to quality, &c.

The first grade to command the highest market price. The second grade to be reduced fifty cents per hundred less than the first grade. The third grade to be reduced fifty cents per hundred less than the second grade.

Farmers should be particular and tie hemp in the *middle of the hand*—when tied at or near the end it is impossible to bale it in a compact and neat manner.

Similar restrictions should be adopted in every hemp growing region, and very soon the unfavorable character which has been given to our hemp will disappear. We have the best hemp land in the United States, and the character and value of this great staple should not be destroyed by the negligence or inattention of those who are engaged in its preparation for a market.

Department of the Interior.—The report of Secretary of the Interior is an elaborate document, presenting a full exhibit of the condition and operations of the new department and the multifarious interests of the Land service, Indian affairs, the Pension office, &c., &c., over which it has charge.

The estimates for the various branches of the public service within its jurisdiction, for the approaching year, reach the large amount of $7,132,043 47; being an excess over the estimates for the current year of $1,728,670 73. The increase arises principally from the enlarged expense of Indian affairs and the pension list; for which the estimates are respectfully, $1,441-472 66 and $2,644,726 31.

The number of claims for warrants under the late bounty land law, up to Nov. 5th, was 9,418, and it is rapidly increasing. The whole number of persons who, if living, would be entitled to the benefit of the law, the Secretary says, would exceed half a million; and he estimates that the number of claimants will by about 250,000.

Of the public lands there were disposed of, 6,184,-410 71 acres, of which 1,320,902 77 were sold, and 4,405,520 00 located on bounty land warrants. For the the three quarters of 1850, the quantity disposed of had been 2,615,366 42 acres; 879,082 32 sold, and 1,520,-420 00 located on warrants.

The Secretary urges the importance of a national highway to the Pacific, within our own territory, from the valley of the Mississippi to the western coast, and the necessity of obtaining full and accurate information as to the shortest and best route, having reference not only to distance, but also to the soil, climate and adaptation to agricultural purposes of the intermediate country.

He renews the recommendation of his predecessor for the establishment of an agricultural bureau; and advises the institution of a model farm at Mount Vernon, "whose soil was once tilled by the hands and is now consecrated by the dust of the Father of his Country."

Wool Growing in Illinois.—The Peoria Republican publishes a letter from Truman Humphreys an extensive wool grower of Elmwood, Peoria county, Ill., in which the writer contends that wool can be grown much more profitably in Illinois than anywhere else in the United States—that it is profitable even at the low price of 25 cents per pound, to those who have the right kind of flocks. He says:

"The calculation is a safe one that the wool from 1000 sheep properly selected and eared for, will produce as many dollars, while, with good management the lambs will pay all the expenses for the year. My flocks do better than that."

Importance of Pure Water for Cattle.—Lawrence in his Farmers' and Graziers' Complete Guide, has the following:

Dr. Jenner, who conferred that great blessing on mankind—the cow-pock inoculation, considered that giving pure water to cows was of more importance than persons are generally aware. There were farmers in his neighborhood, whose cows, while they drank the pond water, were rarely ever free from red-water or swelled udders; and the losses they sustained from these causes, together with the numerous abortions their cows suffered, increased to an alarming extent. One of them at length, supposing that the water they drank had somethink to do with producing their disorders, sunk three wells on different parts of the farm and pumped the water into troughs for the cattle. His success was gratifying: the red-water soon ceased and the swellings of the udder subsided; and the produce of the renovated animals increased both in quantity and quality. Other farmers followed the same practice and in less than six months not a case of red water, swollen udder or abortion was heard of in the neighborhood.—*Scientific American.*

From the American Phrenological Journal.

The Gravel Wall Mode of Building.

As our article on this mode of building, in a former number, awakened considerable interest, and as we have made some personal experiments touching it, it is due to the readers of this volume to give them a few of the results of our own experience in this matter. And first, as to the solidity of the structure. We find it altogether stronger and more applicable to building than brick walls. Having occasion to tear down a portion of one of our walls which had been up some six weeks, we found it far more difficult to do so than to tear down a brick wall which had been built nearly a year, although the mortar had hardly began yet to attain its ultimate adhesiveness and solidity. The wall in question was also only eight inches thick, which is of course the thinnest wall that can be made of brick; and in general we would pronounce eight inches abundantly thick for an inside wall of any house unless its size were truly enormous, designed for domestic purposes, and deem one foot abundantly sufficient for the outside walls.

Secondly, as to the materials. Our own house was built upon a knoll or eminence formed of slate rock, some portions of which had to be dug away to the depth of from one to six feet. Of course a large amount of this slate rubbish was thrown up, and different from the method laid down in the former article, we employed this slate rubbish in place of sand, and out of this formed a great part of our walls. Our mode of procedure was this: first taking three barrels of unslacked or stone lime and wetting and slacking it, and by water reducing it to a thin cream-like consistency, we added fifteen barrels of sand, though these barrels were hardly as large as those of the lime, and added sufficient water to allow the whole to mix or temper easily. After such tempering, beginning at one side of the bed, we would throw on a barrel of this slate rubbish, then a shoveful or two of this lime and sand, then another barrel of rubbish, and another two or three shovels of this mortar, until we had put on thirty-five or forty barrels of the rubbish; then beginning at the end of the mortar-bed where we left off, one man would wet and shovel over these materials until they were well intermixed, and throw them into a wheelbarrow, from whence they were wheeled to the walls and, if not too high, thrown directly into the boxes; and, if too high for that, would be shoveled into a small mortar-bed, say four by eight feet, on legs, thus raising it from six to eight feet, and from this shoveled into the boxes, constituting a layer on the walls. Of course every time it was shoveled only still further tempered or mixed these materials and made them the better, and while this bed was being thrown into the boxes, from twenty to thirty barrels of large stones were thrown in along with it, thus making some eighty or ninety barrels of stones, rubbish and sand for three barrels of lime, or about thirty to one, and this my own experience regards as abuneantly sufficient; at all events I am willing to put my walls, for solidity, in contrast with any I have ever seen constructed of wood, stone or brick. It is really surprising to see how tightly those slate stones are bound, even where only a small portion of them is attached to the wall. Of course the whole strength of the wall depends on the lime. At first I employed a greater quantity of lime, relatively, then mentioned above, but I made up my beds in the proportion above stated and deem the lime abundantly sufficient; at the same time that I acted partially upon the advice of many of my friends, I erred on the side of too much lime rather than too little. I should add, that as this slate rubbish was shoveled up on to the floor preparatory to being thrown into the beds, one man stood upon the pile with a light sledge hammer pounding it in order to save sand. What is required is that there be a regular gradation from finer particles to coarse ones, and so up to stones as large as can well be inclosed in the boves. It is obvious that the amount of sand and also of lime should be made in proportion to the fineness or coarseness of the materials employed, or thus, suppose a quart of fine sand is to be fitted for a wall, all the particles of this sand must be coated with lime in order to give that adhesive power, but suppose a stone the same in bulk is to be fitted for a wall, it has only to be coated, so that it requires the merest particle of lime, compared with the same bulk of sand, therefore in as much as our materials were so largely composed of slate stone less lime was requisite. In frequent instances, these flat slate stones, wide but thin, as they were thrown promiscuously into the boxes would form vacuums, but instead of injuring the wall, I considered this beneficial, because it furnishes a place for the plastering to fasten on, or even, if there should be occasioned holes in the wall, what harm can result therefrom. We omitted to mention in the proper place a few facts touching the strength of our walls. On an eight inch wall, before it had been finished two weeks, we placed a mortar-bed into which were put one hundred and fifty barrels, each barrel containing nearly a bushel of this mortar and slate, together with several barrels of water, without any props underneath. Here then were several tons placed upon some ten feet of an eight inch green wall, a greater weight by many fold than would be placed upon it in the ordinary use of a house.

Upon a foot wall, we placed within three days after its completion, and it was complet-

ed in three days from being started, it being nine feet high, several tons of this slate rubbish, say from ten to fifteen, and before this wall had been completed a week, it was loaded so heavily that at least a dozen of the floor timbers broke off with the pressure and yet the wall remains perfectly solid. No wall of course needs stronger trial than this, for if so green a wall will bear so much, what will the same wall bear when fully consolidated, for it becomes harder and still harder for eighteen and even twenty years.

Thirdly, as to the expense of these walls. I can not now give those details on which my judgment is based, but that judgment is that they can be built five times as cheap as wood and eight times as cheap as brick or stone. Almost the entire cost is labor, and after one has acquired sufficient experience to know how to work the mortar in those beds economically, it is perfectly surprising how much a given amount of labor will accomplish. This can be seen at once from the fact that it consists mainly in shoveling the coarsest materials, for it is shoveled into the mortar-beds, worked mainly by the shovel, and shoveled into the boxes, instead of being carried there in hods. A man will shovel to a given height a far greater amount of matter than he can carry on his back; or thus, suppose a given amount of mortar is to be shoveled twenty-one feet—a man can easily shovel seven feet—let him then shovel from the ground into a box, from that into another and from that into a third, or let three men, one in each of these boxes, shovel this mortar twenty-one feet high, and see how much more easily they would accomplish it than to carry it by hods, for in the former case they have only the simple material to lift, and lift it very advantageously, while in the other case they are obliged to carry their bodies in addition every time they carry say fifty or eighty pounds of this material.

In the article already published it is stated that the main expense of the building was hauling sand; in my own case I have mainly overcome this difficulty by employing the materials dug out of my foundation in place of sand. Some of my neighbors facetiously called these piles of rubbish and slate intermixed with stone large and small, Fowler's brick. "Very well," I replied, "it makes a better wall than any other kind of brick, and at a tenth the cost. It looks rough now, but wait till my walls are finished, and you could not tell the difference between it and the best of brick in looks, and I will guarantee that it will be more solid."

In further aiding the reader to form an estimate of the labor required, I will add that five days' work put up a wall forty feet long, eight inches wide and nine feet high, including the laying out of the wall, and the erection of the guides, and all but one fourth of a day of this work by hands employed at twelve dollars per month; though it should be added that this was the wall torn down, moved a couple of feet so that the materials were handy, that is, these materials had only to be shoveled into a mortar-bed some fresh lime added, and then shoveled back into the boxes.

The readers of the next volume of the Journal will expect to know the full amount of this mode of building when my house is completed.

NEW MODE OF TANNING LEATHER.

An important improvement in the process of tanning leather is noted in the Albany Journal, the editors of which have seen specimens of laether made in the new mode. They say:

The main feature of the invention consists in a compound of chemicals, by which not only in time, money and labor saved, but the leather thus prepared possesses more strength than that manufactured in the old way. This process is called Dexter's Electric Process.

Messrs. A. Marshal & Co. are carrying on a pretty extensive business in tanning by this process, at Nos. 27 and 26 Church street, in this city, and from them we have gathered the following facts in regard to this new mode of tanning skins into leather.

A sheep, calf, goat or deer skin is taken in a green state, and in from eight to ten days it is manufactured into leather ready for market. From four to six days are consumed in preparing a skin for tanning, in the removal of the wool, hair, &; it is then thrown into a tub and washed in three chemical preparations, which takes from one to two minutes; it is then taken out and dried and in twenty-four or forty-eight hours after it is taken from the tub it is ready for market. The time occupied in drying depends much upon the weather; but after it is thoroughly dried it can be finished in twenty minutes or half an hour. Under the old system of tanning, it takes from three to four weeks to prepare the skin, and from three to six months to bark tan, and finish it.

By the discovery of this new process, a skin is converted into leather in as many days as it takes months to bark-tan, and besides, it is not only stronger, and more durable, but the leather is made water-proof. They can manufacturer sheep skins by this process into leather in six or eight days, which not only resembles calf-skin, but for boots and shoes it is preferred by those who have worn them, on account of its being more durable and softer than calf manufactured in the old way. By this method of tanning there is a great saving. One hundred sheep skins can be tanned for thirty-seven to fifty cents, while to bark them would incur an expense of at least $6.

At the same establishment patent leather is manufactured out of sheep skins, which is said to be more durable and less liable to crack than that made of bark tanned leather.

The sublimest thing in the world is plain truth.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

SIDNEY SMITH, of St. Louis, is an authorized agent for the Valley Farmer.

☞ Our January number will be ready promtly on New Years Day; and will be very much improved in appearance. Who will send us a New Year's present of the largest number of names of new subscribers, and the most money?

To Correspondents.—The communication and other favors of *B-a-o-o-k*, will have a promiuent place in our January number. We feel greatly obliged to our friend, and hope to hear from him often.

TO DELINQUENTS.—Subscribers who are in dept to us for the first or second volumes of the Valley Farmer, or both, are earnestly requested to remit the amount due to us without delay. We have many such names on our book, principally transferred there from the lists of the Iowa Advocate; and the failure of such persons to pay up promptly has kept us out of the use of money to which we are justly entitled, and which we have greatly needed. Postmasters are authorised in every instance to receive and forward money to us, either for old subscriptions or new. Will not every man who has recieved the Farmer for one or two years without paying for it until now be just and generous enough to send on the amount due, together with hi subscription for 1851, forthwith?

☞ Pocket Filterers.—We have received from A. C. Morton, Esq. of Buffalo, N. Y. a case containing a pair of pocket filterers for the use of persons traveling, or residing where the water is impure. In our next number we shall speak more particularly about them. In the mean time, we invite the curious to call and examine them at our office.

Smooth Hands.—A subscriber to the Valley Farmer in Iowa writes to us as follows:

"I have been trying to get subscribers to the Farmer in my neighborhood, but cannot, as they ask me at once: 'What do these *smooth handed* fellows know about farming, who never held a plow in their lives and are constantly within doors?' I am well pleased with the Farmer, myself, and wish it sent to me every month. It will be a welcome visitor in my house. One number is worth the year's subscription."

We cannot tell how much a "*smooth handed* fellow" who never held a plow in his life can know about farming, as we do not happen to be either smooth handed or without experience in holding the plow. On the contrary, we will venture to say that we have done as much hard work as any man of our age in Lee county, and as to knowing something about farming, we will state that our Geneological Register shows that our ancestors for seven generations at least have been farmers—aye, and *good farmers* too—men who put their own *hard hands* to the plow and axe handle; and that we ourself were brought up to a familiar acquaintance with all the implements of husbandry. Instead of being constantly within doors, it was our fortune to study agriculture by practical lessons at the wood pile, the plow handle, the boe handle and the threshing floor. Even now, enfeebled as we are by disease of long standing, we perform more manual labor than nine-tenths of the men who dose away half their time in the chimney corner or at the village grocery, railing against "book farming" and those "*smooth handed* fellows who never held a plow in their lives."

Our publishing partner, also, can claim to be excused from the classification which would place him among the "smnoth handed fellows," if *twenty-two* years' employment in labor on the farm can establish such a claim.

The Valley Farmer is a practical paper, and our aim is to adapt it to the wants of the practical farmers of the West, and we earnestly entreat those men who know so much more about farming than we do to write for it and teach us, and those who feel not too proud to gather instruction from its pages.

Working Animals.—See that these noble creatures do not suffer for anything that is necessary to their comfort. As the cold increases, they stand in the more need of good, warm, and comfortable quarters. Their stalls should be well ventilated, well littered, and well cleaned; they should be well fed, regularly watered, and have the salt mixture three times a week. By chopping or flouring your grain, and mixing it with cut hay or straw, one-third less will serve, so that you will be gainer by attending to this part of our advice, while your beasts will actually thrive better by the reduction of the grain. Corn and cob, crushed together, is an excellent food, as well as being the most economical way of feeding corn.

Fine Calves.—Col. Jas. M. Blackburn, of Edgar Co., Ill., says the Prairie Beacon, has raised some of the finest calves we have heard of in this county. On the 19th of Nov. he weighed a lot of 14 last spring calves which amounted in the whole to 7,954 lbs. gross. The largest one weighed 690—average weight of the lot was 568. The gross and nett weight of two of the smaller ones which he slaughtered the other day was 490 and 484 gross, and 286 and 274 nett—showing less difference between the gross and nett weights than is generally supposed to exist.

The Biggest Day's work yet.—At J ckson, Owsleys & Co's pork house yesterday—the "Beargrass," there were 2,173 hogs killed and hung up. The hogs averaged 215, and the hands quit work before five o'clock—this is the biggest days work, and we think it very hard to beat—[Lou. Courier.

"How shall I stir the fire without interrupting the music?" asked some one. "Between the bars," was replied.

We notice the marriage of Mr. Day, to Miss Field, which presents this singular anomaly, that, although he won the Field she gained the Day.

Commercial.

St. Louis, Dec. 21, 1850.

WHEAT—The market and millers are well supplied; sales have recently been made at from 75c. to 85c. sacks returned.

FLOUR—We quote common to fair country brands at $3 75 a$4 00; choice do $4 15a$4 30; City mills $4a$5 per bbl.

HEMP—Inferior to fair, dew rotted, $81a$83, good to prime $86a$87, choice $98 per ton. Supplies are small, but market firm.

CORN—51 a 54 cts. per bushel, sacks included. Trade fair.

OATS—44a46 cents, sacks included.

Contents of this Number.

THE VALLEY FARMER

Is published on the first of each month, at the corner of Fourth and Ohesnut streets, St. Louis, Mo., by

E. K. WOODWARD and E. ABBOTT,
Publishers and Proprietors.

EPHRAIM ABBOTT, Editor.

TERMS:

One copy, one year,	$1 00	27 copies, one year,	$20 00
Six copies, "	5 00	42 " "	30 00
3 " "	10 00	72 " "	50 00

Payments in all cases must be made in advance. Remittances may be made by mail in current bank notes of any denomination, from one dollar upwards, at the risk of the publishers.

Postmasters throughout the country are authorised and requested to act as agents. Those sending clubs of six or more will be entitled to an additional copy gratis. Clergymen, of all denominations, are also requested to act as agents, on the same conditions as offered to postmasters.

All letters in relation to the business of the Valley Farmer should be addressed to "E. K. Woodward, 91 Chesnut street, St. Louis, Mo."

Advertising.—The outside pages of the Valley Farmer are appropriated to advertisements, which will be inserted at the following rates:—One square of 12 lines, first insertion $1, subsequent insertions, 50 cents each. Cards of six lines or less inserted for $4 a year.